

REMARKS

Claims 4-19 are pending in this application.

Claim 4 has been objected to and has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's objection. Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and has been amended to further clarify the invention, addressing the Examiner's rejection.

Claims 4, 7-11, and 13-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Frew et al, U.S. Pat. No. 4,803,632 ("Frew") in view of Sloan, U.S. Pat. No. 4,731,575 ("Sloan"). Claims 5, 6, 12, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Frew in view of Sloan, and further in view of Reccia et al, U.S. Pat. No. 6,039,247 ("Reccia"). These rejections are respectfully traversed as follows.

Applicant respectfully submits that Frew, alone or in combination with Sloan and Reccia, does not teach or suggest a value store electric power meter having "a secure storing portion including a secure access module (SAM) having a CPU, an encryption key and a store value module (SVM); an on/off latch relay switch breaking the supply of electric power according to a balance result of the SVM; and a token exchanger reducing a token from value information input from the SVM according to the amount of electric power consumed, the SVM requesting a new token via the electric power modem when an inner token is exhausted." For example, these claim elements state that the SVM requests "a new token via the electric power modem when an inner token is exhausted." The Examiner cites Frew at column 10, lines 20-25 as supporting this limitation. In Frew, however, such an "inner token" is not disclosed. Instead, Frew teaches that credit card information is obtained through a remote display unit, not in the meter, and payment is made to the electrical utility company. Because the limitations of claim 4, and therefore all

remaining dependent claims, are not taught or suggested by Frew, either alone or in combination with Sloan and Reccia, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been traversed and that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Based on the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this and concurrent replies to charge payment (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Account No. 50-2298 for any additional required fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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